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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No.: 06652.0456-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
 Michel GARRAIT et al.)
)
 Filed: July 9, 1999)
)
 Serial No.: 09/350,152) Group Art Unit: 1623
)
 For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF) Examiner: J. Calve
 HYDROXYMETHYLBUTYRIC ACID)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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In reply to the Office Action dated October 5, 2000, the period for response having been extended three months to April 5, 2001, by the accompanying Petition and fee, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application and continued examination of the claims in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 15-34 as follows:

15. (New) A process for the hydrolysis of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile comprising:

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